CLAIMS:

We claim:

1. A pharmaceutical drug delivery system comprising of a sterile gelling agent, sterile excipients and additionally therapeutically active component, wherein the percentage of the sterile gelling agent in the final composition is sufficient to increase the viscosity of the medium.

2. The pharmaceutical drug delivery composition of claim 1 wherein the sterile gelling agent is chosen from fatty acids, esters of fatty acids, salts of fatty acids and fatty alcohols or mixtures thereof.

3. The sterile gelling agent of claim 2 which is preferably chosen from sorbitan monostearate, sorbitan monopalmitate, aluminum monostearate and cetostearyl alcohol or mixtures thereof.

4. The pharmaceutical drug delivery system of claim 1 wherein the gelling agent present is from about 0% -75% w/w, preferably from 5% to 50% w/w of the total composition, wherein the gelling agent may consist of a mixture of gelling agents.

5. The pharmaceutical drug delivery system of claim 1, which can consist of bioactive agents chosen from peptide drugs, protein drugs, desensitizing agents, antigens, vaccines, anti-infectives, antibiotics, antimicrobials, antineoplastics, antitumor, antiallergenics, steroidal anti-inflammatory agents, analgesics, decongestants, miotics, antyicholinergics, sympathomimetics, sedatives, hypnotics, antipsychotics, psychic energisers, tranquilizers, androgenic steroids, estrogens, progestational agents, humoral agents, prostaglandins, analgesics, antispasmodics, antimalarials, antihistaminics, cardioactive agents, non-steroidal anti-

inflammatory agents antiparkinsonism agents, antihypertensive agents, beta-adrenergic blocking agents, nutritional agents, antivirals, DNA fragments, nucleic acids, genetic material, oligonucleotides, radioisotopes or combinations of these classes of compounds.

6. A pharmaceutical drug delivery system of claim 1, which is in the form of an in-situ microcarrier forming composition, an in-situ forming implant, a gel, a gelled dispersion, a cream, an ointment, a paste, a pessary, a suppository or a wound dressing.

7. The pharmaceutical drug delivery system according to claims 1-7, which can be administered by any route such as parenteral, oral, vaginal, rectal, nasal, intraocular, topical and onto open wounds.

8. The pharmaceutical drug delivery system according to claims 1-7, which can be administered by any parenteral route including intravenously, intramuscularly, subcutaneously, intratumorally, intracavitary peritumorally, intrathecally, subdermally, intrafat, intraabdominally, intralesionally, intracranially, onto open wounds, into fractures and into surgical sites.

9. A process of preparing a drug delivery system comprising of :

(a) Providing a solution of the sterile biocompatible polymer in a sterile biocompatible organic solvent, with or without a bioactive agent.
(b) Providing a sterile continuous oil phase by dissolving the sterile gelling agent in the oil phase.
(c) Combining (a) and (b) above to form a dispersion.
Cooling the dispersion obtained in (c) to form a sterile gelled dispersion and Optionally, subjecting the drug delivery system prepared as above to terminal sterilization procedure preferably gamma irradiation.

10. A method for administering a pharmaceutically active moiety to a subject in need of such administration by using a drug delivery system of claim1.

11. A method for administering a bioactive agent using a delivery system of claim 1, to a subject in need of such administration which comprises in

(a) providing a parenteral composition containing a sterile in-situ gelling agent in a sterile composition and
(b) assistance by the sterile gelling agent by processes of diffusion, degradation which may be independent or overlapping for the release of the therapeutically active moiety from the delivery system.